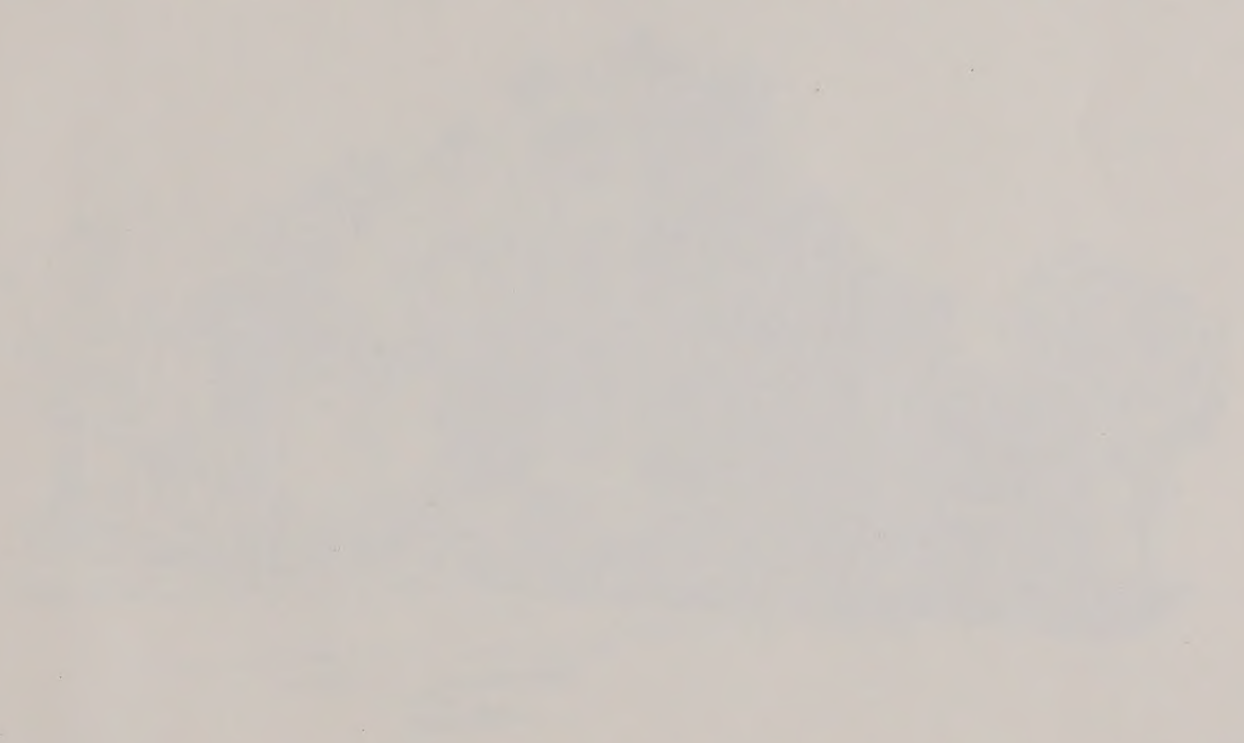


A CHRISTIAN
CENTURY
1441 - 1961



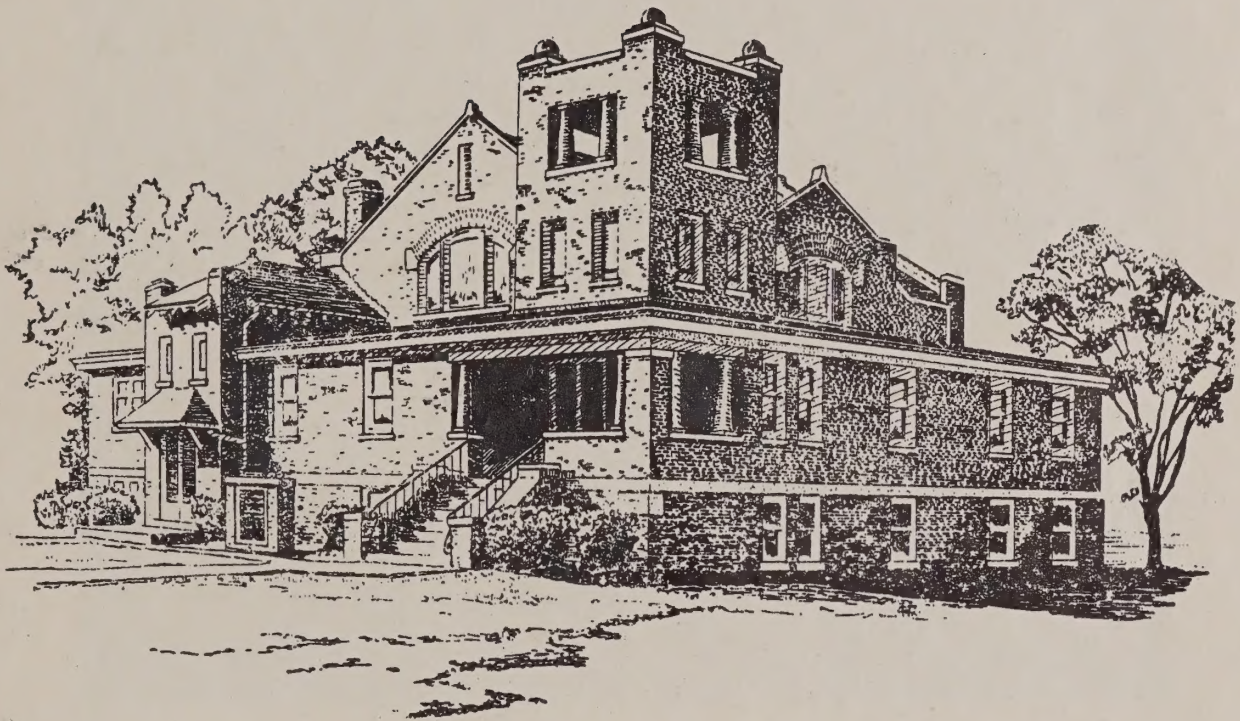
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Savannah, Ga.

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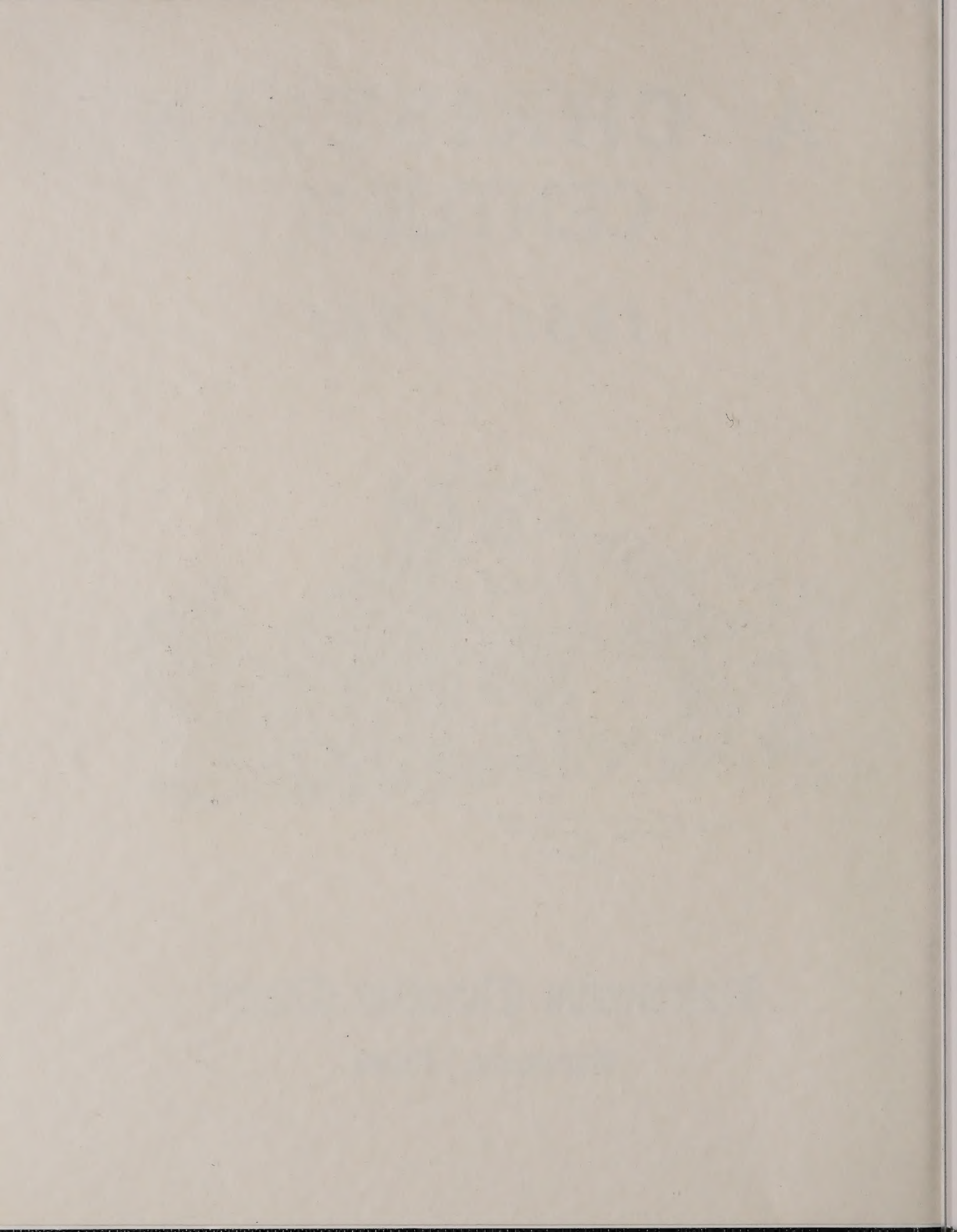
A CHRISTIAN CENTURY

1861 - 1961



Harristown Christian Church

Harristown, Illinois



A CHRISTIAN CENTURY

1861

March 15th

1961



Celebrating the One Hundreth Anniversary

Harristown Christian Church

Harristown, Illinois

A CHRISTIAN CENTURY

1861



Published by the Christian Century

Christian Century

1861

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord, our Lord how excellent is thy Name in all the Earth. Thou art our God, and the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through whom we have redemption and forgiveness of all sins.

We humbly thank thee for our forefathers who have lived before us in this land and who have given unto us a lively hope. Men with profound faith in one another and in Thee. Who established thy kingdom here in this place by thy providence.

Grant unto us, we beseech thee thy Holy Spirit to guide us in this our worship as we celebrate the first century of faithful work that has been done here at this place in thy vineyard, by thy faithful servants of the past.

As we join together in Christian Worship and Fellowship and strive to further thy cause here at this place, grant unto us wisdom, Faith, Love, and Hope.

Make us aware of the Goodly Heritage that has been passed on to us by those who have labored in the past. Help us to continue to pattern our lives after their goodly deeds and by our daily living and example send forth the light of thy everlasting truth to oncoming generations.

Pour out thy blessings upon this congregation in this Centennial and upon the oncoming generations, that thy Kingdom may be reestablished here and throughout the world. Open our eyes to see the unfinished task of sending the Good News to the dark places of this world. Mold our minds, our wills, and our faith, so that our love for Thee and for our fellow creature will never fade.

Grant that this present congregation will press on into the second century with greater Love, Faith Zeal, and greater passion for the lost, so that thy name may be glorified and lost souls will be saved by the saving power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us here and now to consecrate ourselves to thy service in all things through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, we pray, Amen.

Rev. S. S. Carnock
Pastor, 1951-1960

HISTORY OF THE HARRISTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Origin--Union of two groups.

In the early days of the settlement of the Harristown community, a little band of Disciples had organized a church which met in a school house about two miles North of Harristown and was known as the Berea Group. Another little band of Disciples had organized and were meeting in what was known as Miller's school house about two and one-half miles Southeast of Harristown.

The Miller's schoolhouse Congregation after a time met jointly with some other religious groups in a union church building. This arrangement did not prove to be satisfactory, so this band built a church house of their own a short distance West of the former home residence of Mr. M. C. Glasgow. This house, a white frame house on old Route 36 still stands, so that their original church must have been about straight North of Union School.

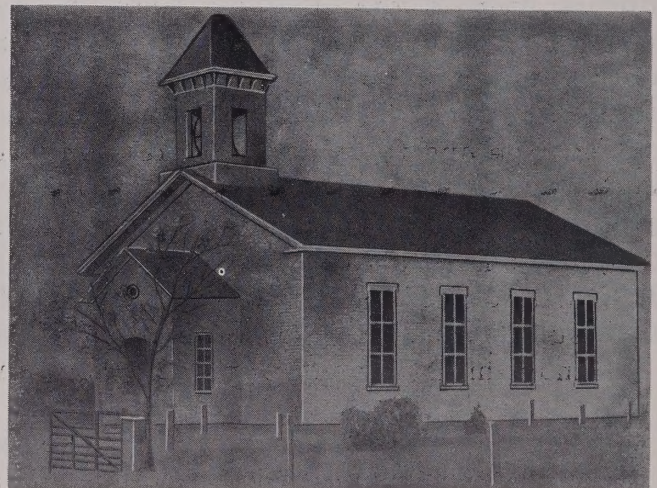
It soon became evident to both this Congregation and Berea Group that they were too close for either to thrive, so it was decided to combine them at Harristown.

"Uncle" Joe McGuire furnished a team and all interested joined in moving the church building that had been erected by the Miller's schoolhouse Disciples to Harristown. They began early in the week but Saturday night found the building on the open prairie East of Harristown. Proving their desire for religious betterment and their anxiousness to be in the new Church Sunday morning, found them repairing to their building out on the prairie East of Harristown where they joined together in Worship Of God.

The following week the building was located on a lot owned by Brother Francis Hostettler. Here on March 15, 1867 the organization was effected. The Harristown Church of Christ was formed by the aforementioned churches with some members from the Long Point Congregation South of Niantic. They drew up the following:

Original Covenant--as written by
J. H. Pickrell.

"We, the undersigned, desiring to promote the cause of Christ among all men, but especially in our own midst; also to increase the means of our religious enjoyment, growth in Grace and knowledge and believing that end can be better attended by our united effort, do for these reasons, propose to unite ourselves to-



gether as a congregation to be known as a Congregation of the Church of Christ, meeting at Harriestown, Illinois, builded together on the foundation of Prophets and Apostles, Jesus Christ the Chief Corner Stone and we do hereby covenant with each other to take the Bible as our only Rule of Faith and practice and endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace, and we will watch over one another for good, and continue in the work of Faith and Labor of Love and Patience of Hope, until our work on earth is done and we are called home to dwell with all the redeemed in Heaven.

Signed by

George Campbell	Lewis J. Eyman	Samuel H. Anderson
Joseph C. Hamilton	James H. Pickrell	Reuben Mallory
Grace D. Eyman	Nancy C. Anderson	James M. Eyman
Joseph D. McGuire	Aliff C. Willard	Catherine McGuire
Albert G. Herrell	Richard M. Hamilton	Ellenor F. Averitt
Andrew J. Miller	Nancy H. Hobbs	Jacob J. Hobbs
Martha D. Eyman		

Original Organization

March 15, 1861

Lewis J. Eyman and Reuben Mallory, Elders

Joseph D. McGuire and Joseph C. Hamilton, Deacons

J. H. Pickrell, Clerk

William A. Mallory, Officiating as evangelist.

NOTE: By James H. Pickrell to original clerk

The Congregation was organized for the convenience of the Congregations meeting at Berea and the one at Miller's schoolhouse. None of the members of either of the above named Congregations were formally dismissed by letter or otherwise, but members were received from both the above named Congregations and marked "Commendation".

Progress

The new organization prospered from the beginning. In 1862, Brother B. B. Tyler, who later attained a national reputation, held a remarkably successful revival meeting which resulted in 75 members adding to the church. It was stated that all of those attending this series of meetings who were not already affiliated with some church, only three adult persons remained outside the fold.

As an illustration of these early members, it is sighted that during this meeting, Brother Harold Masters made the good confession and when asked when he desired to be immersed, replied "In the same hour of the night." There being no bapistry in the church at that time, the people repaired to the Sangamon River, where he, with some others, were baptized under the light of the stars.

The Sunday School of this church was begun with the formation of the Harriestown Church in 1861 and with the exception of two or three winters, has continued uninterrupted in its efforts. It has always been a strong factor in educating both

young and old for the better understanding of the Christian faith. It began with 30 persons and has continued to grow with the Church.

A New Building

The growth of the Congregation was such that a more commodious house seemed to become necessary. Accordingly a new building was erected and in May 1865, was dedicated to the service of God: Brother John Sweeney was in charge of that service. This new building was valued at \$4000. and was considered quite adequate. To add to this property, a neat and conveneint parsonage was bought in 1872 at a cost of \$2000. This building was across the street a little South of the Church and is the present home of Mrs. Ina Crossman.

The church growth continued and by 1880 the membership had reached a total of 164, representing 80 families. The Sunday School had kept pace and from the original 30 now had attained an even 100.

The current expenses at that time were \$1,200 per year and for missions \$120., exclusive of private contributions. The ladies of the church carried on a Missionary Society among themselves. One of the charter members of the Harristown Church, Mrs. Martha D. Eyman was also a charter member of the Christian Women's Board of Missions.

It was about this time that the Congregation felt the need of an organ to assist in their musical portion of worship. It seemed that there were two schools of thought and some felt that a musical instrument had no place in the church. This did precipitate a split in the membership and some withdrew to other fellowships. It is interesting to note that this seems to have been the only thing in the 100 year history that caused any such split.

It does not seem to have slowed the progress of the Congregation for long, however, for by 1884, there was a steady expansion and from March 1886 to November 1886, the records show that there were 68 new members added to the Church by all methods but most were by confession and immersion. In most cases it seems that the rapid expansion must have been due to some very able men as pastor or a very successful revival. One of these periods of growth seems to have been from 1906 thru 1908 when 95 became members, of these, 59 were added in 1908 and 38 of them by immersion. Thus the Harristown Church of Christ finished the first half century on a very strong note.

On March 15, 1911, the 50th Anniversary of the Organization was held and according to the record left by Mr. M. D. Camp, the church clerk at that time,



"The day was very unpleasant, there being a high wind flowing from the Northwest and the weather was quite cold, on which account many were probably prevented from attending.

The attendance, nevertheless, was very good, there being in attendance many former members and friends from Niantic, Latham, Decatur, Eureka, and the surrounding country.

Of the original Charter Members, four were still living and all present; James M. Eyman, Ella F. Averitt, Martha D. Eyman and Aliff C. Willard."

At this time, four of the previous 15 ministers of the church were present, as well as the then active pastor, H. H. Wright. Brothers M. E. Elder, and W. T. Maupin had passed to their final regard. All the rest except two sent their greetings which were read by the clerk.

The morning session had begun at 10 o'clock, there was a basket dinner held at the Town Hall at noon, after which they reconvened at the Church. The meeting ending with a fellowship hour where former pastors, members, and friends could meet. So ended the first half century.

It was soon apparent that the next 50 years would be as full as the first 50 in progress.

In March 1913, electricity was wired into the church and paid for by the Ladies Aid Society, who also took upon themselves the obligation of paying for the electricity used, and have continued to do so ever since.

That same year, a new Communion set was added, replacing the old four silver cups which had always been passed from person to person. In 1914, the old Reed organ was replaced with the more modern piano and is still in use in the present church basement. These marks of progress were only the beginning, for a fine new building was soon to be erected. The present building.

The present building was erected and dedicated December 23, 1917.

Roby Orahood, Pastor
J.B.Camp, Jerome Eyman, and
H.B.McGregor, Elders.
John Rotz M.D.Camp
Adam Bear H.I.Parish
Arthur Hamilton, F.L.Culb

Deacons

Charley Ash, H.I.Parish, Arthur Hamilton, Trustees.



Officers

Chairman of Board-----J. B. Camp
Church Clerk----- --Charley Ash
Treasurer-----E. P. Ash
Sunday School Superintendent-----H. P. Ash
President, Ladies Aid Society -----Mrs. Myrtle Hamilton
Secretary Ladies Aid Society -----Mrs. Myrtle Birks
President CWBM-----Mrs. Lucy Culp
Secretary CWBM-----Mrs. Bertha Baer

Building Committee

M. D. Camp	H. I. Parish
J. R. Davis	Arthur Hamilton
Mrs. Myrtle Birks	Mrs. Hattie Camp
Mrs. Lucy Culp	Wilmer Birks, Treas.
Charles Harris, Architect - A. W. Hendricks, Contractor.	

War

Before the dedication of the new Church, many of the young men of the Church and community were leaving or had already departed for military training camps and before the summer was over, hardly an able bodied young man 18 years of age or older could be found. Their stay was not for too long and before 1918 was completed all but a few who had seen service in France during World War I had returned.

New Church Parsonage

Not only was there a new church when the boys came home, but also a new parsonage. The property belonging to the Willard estate, just south of the Church has been purchased and the old building across the street sold. Rev. Roby Orahood with the family, was the first minister to occupy this home.

The Rural Church in a Changing World

By 1920 the automobile had begun to exert a big influence in all places, but particularly in rural areas. Then too, paved highways were beginning to appear. Easy and rapid travel had begun to have a decided effect upon the Harristown community as a whole and the Harristown Church in Particular.

The economic reaction, which follows all wars, had begun to make a change in farm life and farm prices and the Harristown community being largely rural and farm supported, began to feel the pinch of falling prices. By 1930 the great depression was on--Harristown Christian Church kept going but much of the time it was at a sacrifice that the congregation was able to meet obligations. For a period of time they felt unable to make a definite commitment for ministers salary, and dire was the financial straits of the church so that the pastor then serving the church Rev. Roy Miller, asked to stay for the collections and parsonage.

Parsonage Burns

In November 1932 the parsonage was completely destroyed by fire, leaving Rev. Miller and family homeless. The Mattie Birks residence in the East part of Harristown was rented and served as residence for the Miller family while a new parsonage was being built. As an indication of the stringency of economic conditions at that time the insurance on the old parsonage was almost sufficient to pay for the erection of the new one.

The clouds of depression started to clear away and it soon became apparent that the struggles of holding the church together throughout the years of hardship had cemented the members of the Harristown Christian Church into a more complete and compact unit. Through a unity of effort and a steadfastness of purpose church expansion progressed rapidly as the country began to recover from the depression. An excellent beginning on a new era had begun with two fine young ministers in succession only to be slowed suddenly again.



Second World War

Each month and week when the faithful gathered at the church there were fewer and fewer young men as the flower of young manhood of Harristown community and church were called into service. It was the women and the middle aged men who were left to carry on. During this time not only were the ranks of the young laymen thinned, but also two of the ministers became Chaplains in the United States armed forces., Rev. Howard Johnson and Rev. A. A. Azlain.

Period of Rapid Expansion

Peace came again to the world and to Harristown, then came rehabilitation and rapid expansion. The world seemed too small as if diminished by the very intensity of the war effort. Once again the boys came back, many had been wounded, and many had scars on both body and soul that would long exist, but all of the membership came back to take their places in a rapidly changed and changing community. It was no longer strictly rural but almost suburban and now quite cosmopolitan. The Harristown Church of Christ still was the most potent force for good in the community and it started growing by leaps and bounds. There were many new people who moved to the area who became affiliated with the church and also many of the children reaching maturity who came into the fellowship until the first decade following World War II found 165 new people had received the fellowship of Harristown Church of Christ.

Storm Clouds of War Again

Not only was great progress being made in adding new members to the cause of Christ, but also much was being done to add to the ability and attractiveness of the physical plant.

In the business session of the March, 1949 meeting of the church board, Lewis and Hilda Parish made the church a proposition: "If the rest of the congregation would redecorate the entire church upstairs and down, and do it within one year's time, then they (Mr. & Mrs. Parish) would pay for repointing the bricks of the church." It was urgent that both jobs be done so the church board was pleased to accept their offer and both jobs were done at a total cost of nearly \$6,000.

Again we were to be rocked by the blows of war and this time our young men were being sent to Korea. Many were already scattered all over the world, but a new conflict in Korea called many American boys into active combat there. Through World War I and World War II of all the members who went from Harristown Church none were lost, but in Korea, Sargent James D. Ash lost his life in June, 1954. It was while he was there that a new Baldwin Electric Organ had been added to the church and he had sent his contribution back to apply on the organ purchased December 1953.

It was interesting to note that the \$3,000 necessary to pay for the organ was all submitted in just one day.

In recent years many fine gifts have added to the attractiveness of the church.

In 1947, Rev. Robert A. Furgeson painted the beautiful scene in the baptistry.

The Bulletin in front of the church was given by the Rotz family in memory of "Grandpap and Grandmam Rotz".

In 1956 the chimes were added to the organ by Charley Ash in memory of his wife, Susan Ash.

In November 1960 the baptistry curtain was given in memory of Mr. George Camp by his sister, Mrs. John Nottelmann.

Two brass candelabra were given in memory of Elmer Birks by his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Birks and his daughter, the late Mrs. Margaret Henderson.

Pulpit appointment in memory of William G. Hardin and Mrs. & Mrs. John A. Musser were also given by their daughter and son, Mr. & Mrs. John Musser.

The last 9 1/2 years the church has been served by Rev. Steven A. Carnock as pastor and his wife Gladys as a very able assistant, and much of the progress of this period is due to their continuous and untiring effort.

The interior of the church was redecorated in 1960 and much credit for that must be given to Mrs. Carnock and her \$100 which she gave as \$5.00 lots to various members of her Sunday School class to be used by them and increased by their talents. It was the impetus of this effort that made the redecoration possible.

It was indeed then, with mixed feelings of emotions that the congregation left the church Sunday, December 11, 1960; feelings of sadness at losing two wonderful Christian leaders, but feelings of joy that two such sincere, hard-working leaders could be promoted to a new and challenging field of Christian work in Moline, Illinois. It was then that the Carnock's presented their resignation. With them went the congregations wishes for continued success and God's richest blessings.

One hundred years of Christian service has now been completed, years filled with the hopes and prayers of dedicated people. And as we look to the future our dream is to help build a better world, a world of peace and human brotherhood built on the rich heritage of the past. Those who have gone before have builded on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the foundation of all good. May we and all who follow have the vision and an eagerness to continue to build on that foundation, a second "Century for Christ and His Church".

Interesting facts:

Both present church and the one before were struck by lightening. Over \$400 damage was done to the first one.

Throughout the years it had been a common practice to take special collections to help other churches of the brotherhood that were in distress.

One member of the church was for many years a missionary in China, Miss Susan Helen Connelly who passed away in July 1960.

For a few years the church gave foreign missions enough to support one missionary one year.

Many times the deacons were called upon to canvas the membership to raise funds for special purposes and at times to take care of general church expenses.

One acre on the south and west of the church was purchased in 1955 at a cost of \$100 0.

Some more extensive reading and research work has revealed that W. A. Mallory the officiating evangelist at the organization of the church served as pastor from time of organization until January 1862 at which time he was commissioned by Governor Yates as a recruiting officer for the Civil War. He held this assignment for only one year resigning due to ill health.

He was succeeded by A. J. Kane, one of the great Christian leaders of his day and who is credited with converting Mr. Mallory. He served for about 3 years and was succeeded by N. S. Bastain who served for one year. It is thought that none of the three were resident ministers and may not have served full time. It is an interesting fact that Mr. Bastain was from New York state and of Dutch ancestry. He went to Africa as a missionary for the Methodist Church. His first child was born there and since at that early time, very few white babies had been seen in Africa, the natives came for miles to see a white child. Unfortunately the child was to live but a few months and not too long after its death, Mr. Bastain was sent to England, his wife remaining in Africa in charge of the

mission. One night in his stateroom she appeared before him then quite suddenly vanished. Upon arrival in England he received a cable to return to America, where he was met by friends who asked if he had heard from his wife. He said yes, she is dead, isn't she. They gave him the particulars of her death and it was on the exact date and hour at which she had appeared to him. He afterwards subscribed to the faith of the Christian Church and many of his Methodist friends attributed this to the shock of losing both his child and his wife so tragically that it weakened his mind.

Early history also states that in the first half century, Harristown Christian Church gave to the ministry George Hamilton and three daughters as ministers wives: Mrs. C. S. Medbury, Mrs. I. M. McCash and Mrs. R. A. Gilchrist. It is interesting to note how the second half century has been almost the exact parallel:

Christopher Garriott going into the ministry and three of our daughters have chosen minister husbands. Faith Leonard Pitman, Nancy Ash Keck, and Georganne Dingman Warren.

The bell in the present church is the one from the previous building. It was kept because of its clear ringing tones, due to the fact it was molded with a lot of silver added.



CHARTER MEMBERS

The following names appear in the first organization, as Charter Members of the Harristown Christian Church, March 15, 1861.

George Campbell	Joseph C. Hamilton
Isaac O. Eyman	Joseph D. McGuire
Albert G. Herrell	Andrew G. Miller
Martha D. Eyman	Lewis J. Eyman
James H. Pickrell	Nancy C. Anderson
Aliff C. Willard	Richard M. Hamilton
Nancy H. Hobbs	John F. Averitt
Samuel H. Anderson	Reuben Mallory
James M. Eyman	Catherine McGuire
Ellenor F. Averitt	Jacob I. Hobbs

The first resident pastor of the Harristown Christian Church was W.T. Maupin, who located with the Church in 1868 and continued for 5 years.

His successors were as follows:

J. G. Waggoner - 1872-1878	Roby Orahood-April 1915-Feb. 1920
G. M. Goode - 1878-1884	Charles Adams-Apr. 1920-Mar. 1924
J. H. Gilliland - 1885-1888	J. H. Thomas-1924-Sept. 1927
J. T. Ogle - 1888-1891	No Minister - 1928
M. R. Elder - No Date	Harry Joachim-Jan. 1929-Aug. 1929
J. F. Weaver - No Date	Roy Miller-Feb. 1930-Oct. 1933
J. P. McKnight- 1892-June 1896	No Minister - 1934
L. T. Faulters - Sept. 1896 - Sept. 1899	No Minister - 1935
C. Whitt - 1900-1901	Joe Reed - 1936
J. W. Robbins - Apr. 1901-Feb. 1903	Howard Johnson-July 1937-June 1941
W. H. Harding- Sept. 1903-1905	Fred Wilson-Oct. 1943-Dec. 1945
Bro. Cloe- Alternate Sundays 1905	Arthur A. Azlein-Dec. 1941-July 1943
A. P. Cobb- 1906-1907(Non-resident but served 1 year	Robert A. Ferguson-Apr. 1946-Aug. 1947
J. H. Bristor- May 1907-Feb. 1909	LeRoy Cronkhite II-Sept. 1947-Feb. 1951
A. A. Burr - March 1909-Sept. 1910	Stephen S. Carnock-Aug. 1951-Feb. 1961
J. H. Wright - Jan 1911-Sept. 1912	
W. H. Kern - Jan. 1913 - Jan. 1915	

MEMBERS OF CHURCH 40 YEARS OR OVER

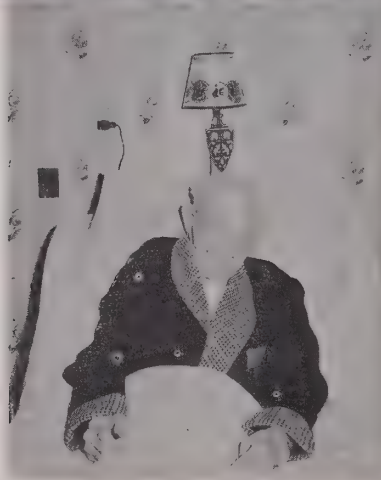
			YR. OF ADMISSION	YR. OF SERVICE
Norma Ash	1892	69	<i>Martha Ash</i> 1908	53
Charley Ash	1894	67	Ina Crossman	1910 51
Alice Connelly	1896	65	Glenn Ash	1911 50
Lewis Parish	1903	58	Mrs. Dora Holmes	1911 50
Floyd Holmes	1903	58	John Linn Birks	1913 48
Myrtle Birks	1903	58	Maud Humphries Ash	1914 47
Elma Rotz	1906	55	Harold Ash	1915 46
Irene Parks Lindsey	1906	55	Wayne Ash	1915 46
Orpha Parish	1907	54	Ethel Humphries Ash	1916 45
Hilda Parish	1907	54	Lucille McArty	1916 45
Minnie Kershner	1907	54	Edgar Leonard	1916 45
Vernie Oliver	1908	53	Marie Ash	1916 45
Sheldon Parks, Jr.	1908	53	Ruby Oliver	1918 43
Mrs. John McClure	1908	53	Harold Rotz	1921 40
Anna Gariott	1908	53	Virgil Rotz	1921 40
Sheldon Parks, Sr.	1908	53	Joseph Woodrum	1921 40
<i>Eva Parks</i> 1908			<i>Gertrude Gambrell</i> 1903	58

Two Hundred Thirty-One years of Church Membership



Charley Ash-Born in 1871. Became a member in 1894. Became a Trustee in 1903. Served as a Deacon, a Secretary of Church Board and was recently made a Life Time Elder of Church Board.

Myrtle Birks-Born in 1867. Became a member of Church in 1903. Served as an official of the Missionary Society and Ladies Aid. Served on Building Committee of the present Church in 1917.



Eva Parks-Born in 1869. Became a member in 1908. Served as an officer of the Missionary Society and Ladies Aid.

Sheldon Parks, Sr.-Born in 1864. Became a member of Church in 1908.

OFFICIAL CHURCH BOARD FOR 1961

Chairman: Robert Lyman
Vice-Chairman: Dewayne Prosser
Treasurer: James Parish
Church Clerk: Edgar Baer
Financial Secretary: Mrs. Cora Baer

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
Charles Ash- Honorary Life Elder	
Robert Chamberlain	12-31-61
James Parish	12-31-61
Leonard Gaede	12-31-61
Harold Rotz	12-31-61
Edgar Baer	12-31-62
Victor Childers	12-31-62
Glenn Ash	12-31-62
Howard Parish	12-31-63

<u>TRUSTEES</u>	
Charles Ash - Honorary Life Trustee	
Ray Downing	12-31-61
Joe Woodrum	12-31-61
Lewis Parish	12-31-62
Charles Workman	12-31-62
Robert Chamberlain	12-31-63
Daniel Hedenberg, Sr.	12-31-63

<u>DEACONESSES</u>	
Mrs. Elma Rotz	12-31-61
Mrs. Charles Woodrum	12-31-61
Mrs. Orpha Parish	12-31-62
Mrs. Glenn Ash	12-31-62
Mrs. Lewis Parish	12-31-62
Mrs. Cora Baer	12-31-63
Mrs. Howard Parish	12-31-63
Mrs. Geo. Dingman	12-31-63
Mrs. Robert Chamberlain	12-31-63

<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
Ralph McArty	12-31-61
Carl Rotz	12-31-61
Dewayne Prosser	12-31-61
John Pace	12-31-61
Charles Carnock	12-31-61
Robert Lyman	12-31-61
Lyle Dingman	12-31-62
George Dingman	12-31-62
Charles Woodrum	12-31-62
David Ash	12-31-62
J. P. Holmes	12-31-62
Gene Burks	12-31-62
Charles Workman	12-31-62
Ray Downing	12-31-63
Thos. Chamberlain	12-31-63
Lee Cross	12-31-63
Jesse J. Faulin	12-31-63
Gerald Parish	12-31-63
John Musser	12-31-63
Don Jerden	12-31-63
Lewis Parish	12-31-63

BOARD CHAIRMEN
Trustees: Robert Chamberlain
Deacons: Ralph McArty
Deaconesses: Mrs. Howard Parish
Elders: Victor Childers

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS-1961

Supt: Mrs. Dorothy Turner
Asst.Supt: Charles Workman
Secretary: Betty Jo Sullivan
Treasurer: Mrs. Glen Snider
Pianist: Mrs. Cora Baer
Song Leader: Mrs. Glen Snider

Supt. of Jr. Dept. - Margaret Bailey
Supply Secy - Maybelle Cunningham

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS-1961

Nursery: Mrs. Glen Snider
Kindergarten: Mrs. Ralph McArty
Assist: Mrs. Robert Chamberlain
1st Primary: Mrs. Lyle Dingman
2nd Primary: Mrs. Dean Gray
3rd Primary: Mrs. Lee Cross
1st Junior: Mr. Robert Chamberlain
2nd Junior: Mrs. Wm. Butler

3rd Junior: Howard Parish
Seventh: Edgar Baer
Eighth: Mrs. Gene Burks
High School: Mrs. John Gambrill
Progressive: Thomas Chamberlain
Connelly: Mrs. Harold Rotz
Excelsior: Mrs. George Dingman



Traditional Easter Party
on Church lawn



Halloween Celebration
Children gather clothing for
Over Seas Relief

Program

*Harristown Christian Church
Centennial*

1861



1961

Sunday, March 12, 1961

Tuesday, March 14, 1961

Wednesday, March 15th, 1961

Harristown, Illinois

CENTENNIAL WEEK HARRISTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY
SUNDAY MARCH 12, 1961

Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude - - - - - Margaret Ann Parish, Organist

The Processional ----- (congregation standing)

The Call to Worship - - - - -

L - Surely the Lord is in this place.

P - This is none other than the house of the Lord and the temple of the Most High.

L - Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

P - The Lord is good: His loving kindness endures forever and his faithfulness unto all generations.

The Lord's Prayer - - - - - (in unison, congregation standing)

The Informal Moments

Hymn of Praise "Holy, Holy, Holy" No 107

The Responsive Scripture Reading - - - - No. 16 (N.T.)

Moments of Silent Prayer

The Morning Prayer

The Choral Response -

The Communion Meditation

The Communion Hymn - " Bread of the World in Mercy Broken" No. 453

The Prayers of Consecration by Elders

The Communion

The Organ Meditation

The Offertory Prayer

The Organ Offertory

The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Doxology (Congregation standing)

The Choir Sings

The Message: The Importance of the Unimportant - - - - - Dr. Chester B. Grubb
Bloomington, Ill.

The Hymn of Invitation - "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

The Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

March 12, 1961

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

Visiting

Viewing Centennial Collections

4:00 P.M.

VESPER SERVICE

SANCTUARY

Prelude

Opening Sentence - Glenn Ash

Opening Hymn - "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" No. 355

Quiet Meditation

Vesper Prayer

Choral Response - Choir

Scripture Reading

Gloria Patri - Choir

Special Number - Mrs. Rosemary Downing, Mrs. Gerald Parish

Recognition of Former Ministers, reminiscence; history Glenn Ash

Hymn - "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee" No. 307

Benediction

Continuation of Fellowship Hour

TUESDAY EVENING March 14, 1961

7:30 p.m.

OLD HOME NIGHT

Invocation - Howard Parish

Opening Hymn - "Sing Them Over Again to Me" No. 332

Prayer

Song Service (Old Hymns)

Recognition of members

Skit

Closing Hymn - "More Love to Thee" No. 289

Benediction

WEDNESDAY EVENING

March 15, 1961

6:30 p.m. BANQUET - HARRISTOWN GRADE SCHOOL

Invocation - Rev. S. S. Carnock

Dinner

Welcome - Robert Lyman

Hymn - "Battle Hymn of Republic"

Special Music - Solo, Mary Parish, Accompanist, Mrs. Gladys Greer

Speaker - Dr. Carroll Flewelling
 "Where the Saints have Trod" Decatur, Illinois

Hymn - "Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

Benediction

WEEK-DAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Church, being a member of the Decatur Church Council, and Mrs. Carnock teaching Religious classes for the Council in town, a group of church members, with Rev. and Mrs. Carnock, got together, and with the help of the Decatur Church Council, formed our Week-Day Religious Classes. The School Board granted us released time for the classes. Rev. Carnock escorted the children to and from school to the Church as long as the old school was in use. Mrs. Carnock became the teacher with the Decatur Church Council being the sponsor. Our Church underwrote the expenses for the classes.

Our classes started in the Fall of 1952 with 65 children enrolled. Our program was enlarged when the children from Niantic began coming to the school at Harristown. The Niantic Christian, Berea Christian and the Niantic Methodist Churches began to help through the Decatur Church Council in supporting our classes. We are now having seven classes a week. Six classes meeting at Harristown and one class at Niantic. When the Carnock's moved away, the Decatur Church Council sent us Mrs. Morrison, who is teaching our classes at the present time.

One of the first classes



Rev. Carnock escorts children from old Harristown School.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Vacation Bible School is an important part of the work of the Church. This community project was started in the fortie's and has been conducted every year except two. The enrollment was reached over 100 several times and was 196 the year the buses were run to pick up the children.

The Sunday School and Church finance the school. The teachers, as well as the pupils come from the entire community--especially helpful are the boys and girls of high school age. Classes have been held in the grade school or at the parsonage when there was not adequate room in the church building.

Pupils in the vacation school take part in many activities such as worship, music, handicraft, and fellowship through games. They have taken flowers and made visits to shut-ins. They have brought donations to contribute to a worthwhile cause. One of these was the migrant workers of our country.

Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Carnock, in their nine years of ministry at the Harristown Church, did much to promote the vacation Bible School. Mrs. Carnock worked as Chairman of the School at one time and always served as a teacher to one of the classes.

Some terms have ended with a picnic and there is always a day of sharing with each other and with the parents.

Rewards of such a program cannot be measured, but members of the Church realize the importance of a child's early years and know that the influence of the church is an important element in building character.



The Prophet attends Daily
Bible School



Students prepare Scroll

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP KEEPS PACE WITH THE TIMES

In many churches the Ladies Aid was the first women's organizations. The Ladies Aid of Harristown Christian Church has provided innumerable services. Gertrude Gambrill can remember her mother serving as hostess to the Aid when she was very young. Mrs. Gambrill has followed her mother's example; her home has served as the regular meeting place for the Aid the last fourteen years.

An "Auxillary to the Christian Woman's Board of Missions" was formed at Harristown in the same year, 1874, that "The Christian Woman's Board of Missions" was organized on a national level. Twenty women, assisted by J. G. Waggoner, minister, formed an enthusiastic group. Mrs. Willard became a life member. Financial support for the world outreach of the church did not cease, but regular monthly meetings were discontinued until the ministry of the McKnights. Since that time regular monthly meetings have been held.

Since the formation of the "Christian Women's Fellowship" in the 1940's, a continuous study of the needs of Harristown women and efforts to meet these needs in the church have been made. In the early 1950's, evening meetings for women who work away from home were begun. In 1960 young mothers and their children began meeting in the morning. Christian education in separate groups for the children is planned and conducted by members from other groups in CWF.

During the 100 years Harristown Christian Church has lived, starting with the Ladies Aid, the Auxillary, the organization of women has changed: changed in name from Auxillary to Women's Missionary Society to Christian Women's Fellowship; changed in number from one or two groups to four, from twenty women to seventy, meeting one day- morning, afternoon, evening; changed in emphasis from missions alone to the development of all women in all phases of Christian living and Christian service.

OFFICERS

1874 Auxillary

Mrs. J. G. Tandy
Mrs. A. G. Tandy
Mrs. Alla Averitt

1961 CWF

President	Mrs. H. R. Parish
Vice President	Mrs. Cora Baer, Mrs. Lyle
Secretary	Mrs. James Parish- Dingman
Treasurer	Mrs. Lee Cross
Study Director	Mrs. Dorothy Turner
Service Director	Mrs. Lyle Dingman
World Call Secretary	Miss Mildred Pasley

1961 - Group I (Formerly Women's Missionary Society)

Chairman - Mrs. Gladys Carnock
Vice Chairman - Mrs. Goldie Curtis
Secretary - Mrs. Beluah Chapman

Group II (Ladies Aid)

Chairman - Mrs. Alberta Snider
Sec.-Tras. - Mrs. Cora Baer

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (Continued)

Group III (Evening)

Chairman - Mrs. Fern Birks

Sec. - Treas. - Mrs. Sarah Buster

Group I V

Chairman - Mrs. Maryilynn Baer

Sec. - Treas. - Mrs. Ann Carnock

Worship Chairman - Joanne Gray

Study Chairman - Nigel Prosser

Service Chairman-Beverly Siefert

Refreshment Chairman-Norma

Chamberlain

In addition to the regular monthly meetings by each group, there are six meetings a year when the groups meet together, four executive meetings and six meetings of the CWF President and the group leaders. Our giving to missions over the years have increased steadily. A goal of \$400 has been paid for this year. In addition we have spent \$127 on local church projects; and \$72 in various service projects having a missionary and benevolent emphasis.



The Missionary Society meets
with Hilda Parish - 1932

The Missionary Society
meets with Essie Kerr - 1958



SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Senior Citizens Club was organized in 1953 by a group of 22 persons of the Harristown Community who were sixty years old or older. It was reported that the original 22 had a combined age of over 1700 years or an average age of 77.

These Senior Citizens carried on with one meeting a year until the fall of 1958; since then they have been meeting monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Original meetings consist of group singing and just old fashioned visiting with time out for light refreshments.

In July 1959, the plan was changed and they started having pot-luck suppers; on some occasions travel pictures have been shown by members or guests, but group singing continues to be the chief entertainment. Each month a birthday cake is part of the program for any whose birthdays fall that month.

Average attendance has been 14 and the meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Church basement.



GOD & COUNTRY AWARD

Daniel Hedenberg, Jr. and Douglas Faulin, received God and Country Awards in ceremonies at the Harris-town Christian Church in October 1959. The boys were members of Troop 70 sponsored by the Harris-town Christian Church. The boys, assisted by Rev. Carnock, received the Award for service in the church. Eugene Burks was their Scout Master. This was the first such award to be given by this church. Their five active areas of study, experience and service were Christian Faith, Christian Witness, Christian World Outreach, Christian Citizenship, and Christian Fellowship.



Rural Pastor of the Year 1960

Rev. S.S. Carnock was named Rural Pastor of the Year for 1960 by the churches of the Disciples of Christ of the State of Illinois

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



(Above) They prepare and serve
the Mother and Daughter Banquet.

(Below)
All hands help with repairs.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Each year the Sunday before thanksgiving is called Harvest Festival Sunday. After church services a pot-luck dinner is held for all members of the church and the community. This tradition was first observed under the ministry of Rev. Arthur Azlein in 1942.

Four years ago Rev. Carnock added the Pilgrim Family to the tradition. Each year the Minister selects a family of the church and their identity remains unknown until their appearance at service time costumed as a Pilgrim family. This family presents a worship service before the congregation.

The following have been Pilgrim families:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chamberlain & family
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Faulin & family
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Burks & family
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chamberlain & family



Jesse Faulin & family
Sorry, no picture



OUR YOUTH GROUPS

Our Youth Group started years ago as Christian Endeavor. We have had several different groups and the program would decline and a few years later another group was started. This has been going on over a period of years.

The present C.Y.F. was formed last fall with Mrs. Doris Parish, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Holt and Re. & Mrs. Carnock as sponsors. We have been having very interesting lessons and good attendance at our meetings. Our present Officers are:

President: Bob Chamberlain	Vice President: Ann Travis
Secretary: Ron Chamberlain	Treasurer: Mary Larson
Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Ann Parish	

ORGANISTS AND PIANISTS

OUR CHURCH MUSIC



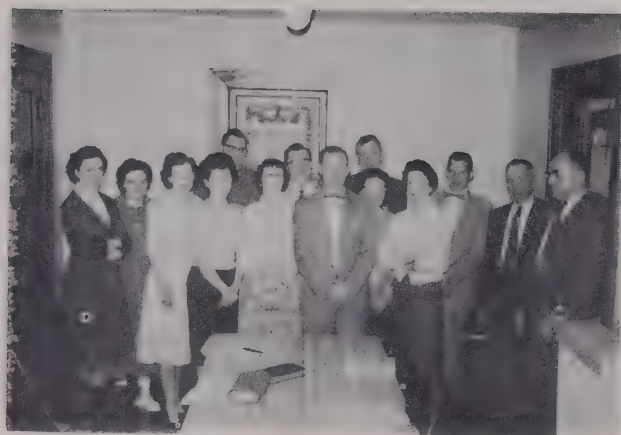
Our Church has been blessed by a succession of faithful and talented pianists and organists. After the purchase of the first instrument, a treadle organ, Mrs. M.D. Camp served as organist for many years. Her successors in their approximate order have been Nora Camp Nottleman, Orpha Cross Parish, Lucy Hall Culp, Laura Connelly Ash, Lucy Parish Dingman and Lois Parish Brown. Mrs. Goldie Curtis became organist when the Baldwin Organ was purchased in 1949 and served until November 1960. She was assisted by Maryilynn Baer, Lucy Dingman, and Margaret Ann Parish, who is now serving as church Organist.

The Dean of Sunday School pianists is Gertrude Gambrill who served for over thirty years. Also serving were Hallie Cross, Dorothy Downing, Mary Gambrill, and Cora Baer, who is the present pianist.

Many individuals have served in the church choir through the years. The senior Choir director is Ron Steinberg, Millikin University student. A junior choir which was started in the early 1950's, under the direction of Mrs. Gladys Carnock, is now directed by Mrs. Mary Gambrill.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1961



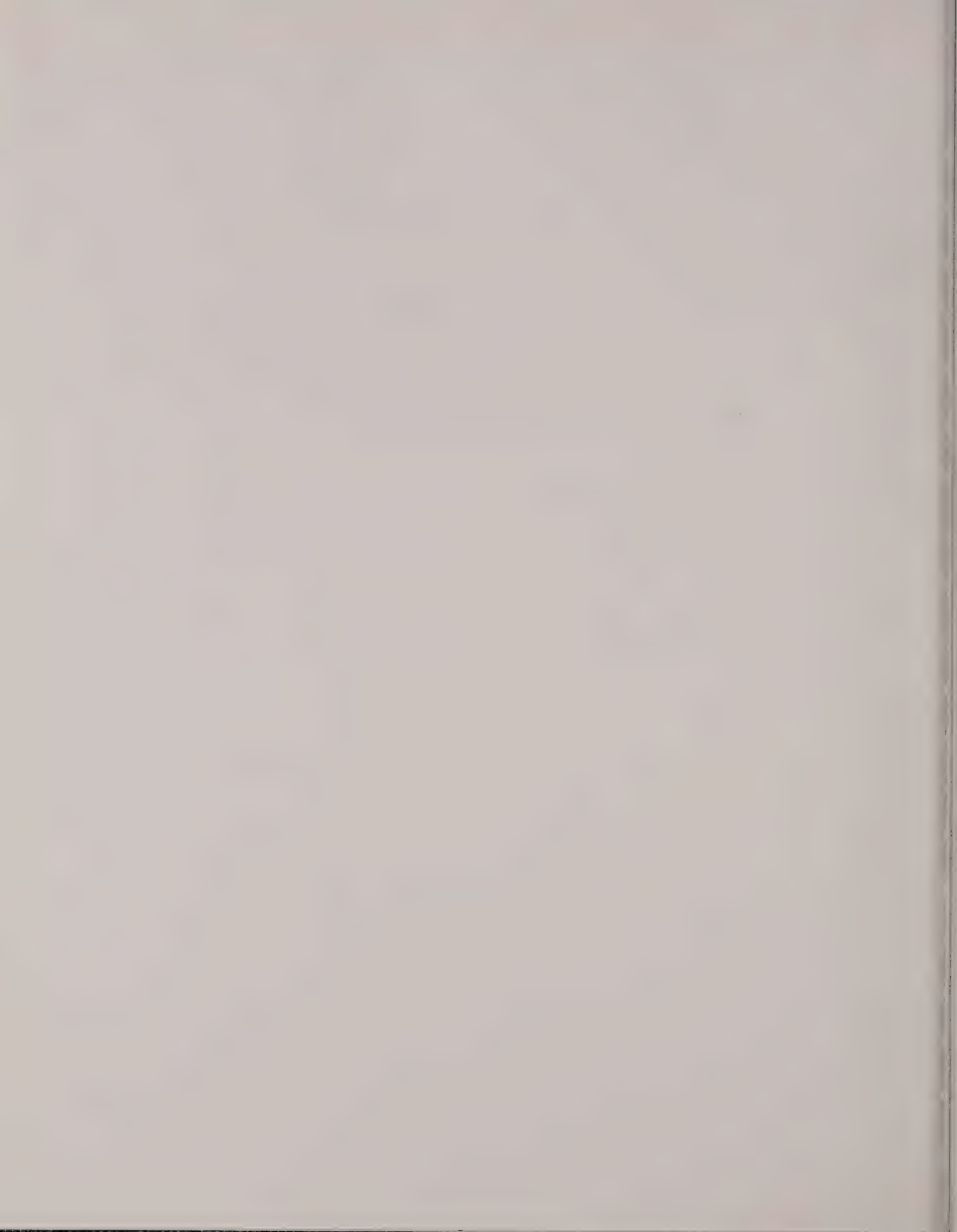


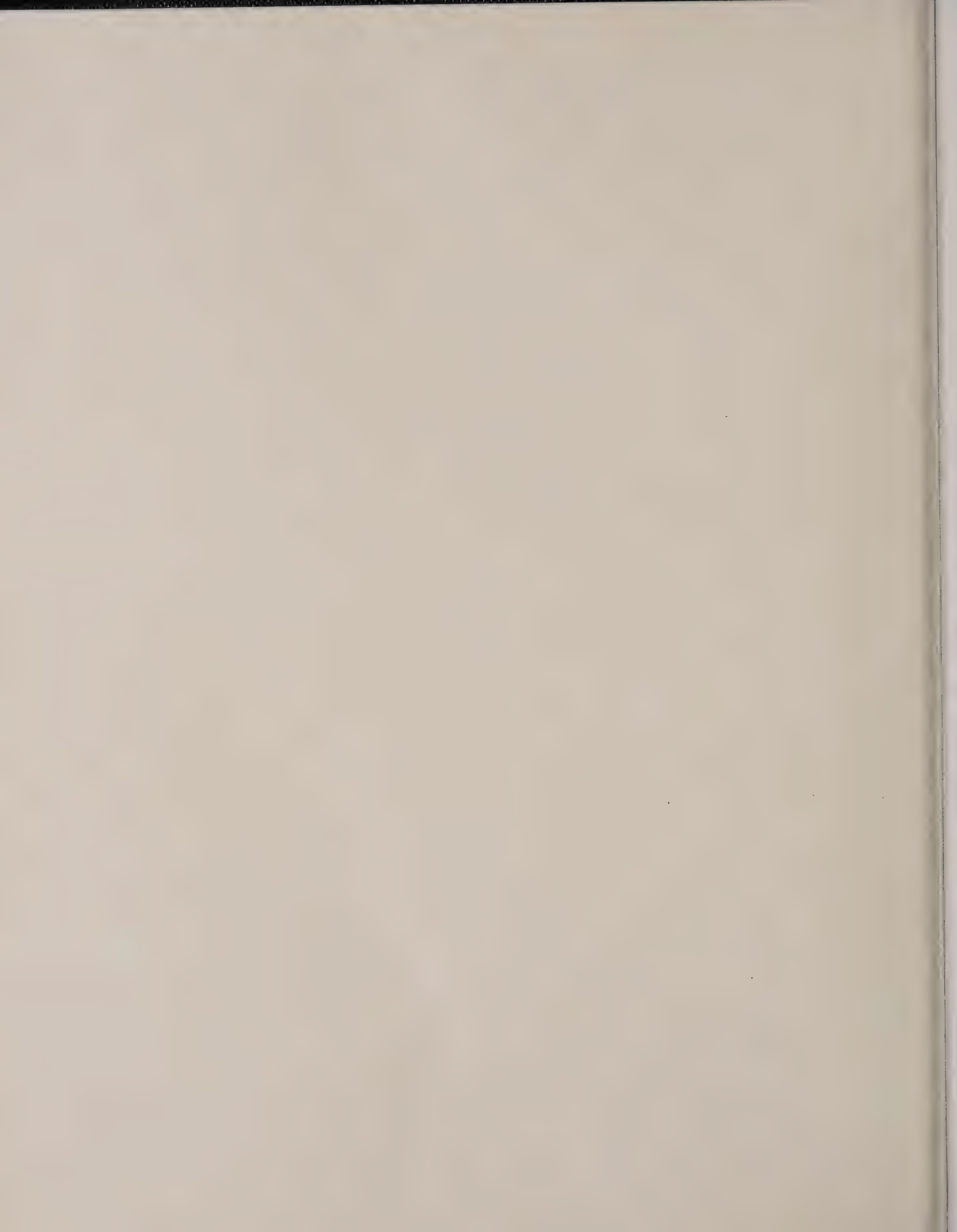
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of our Centennial observance is due to the untiring efforts of many people serving on a number of Committees. The Program Committee wishes to thank all who assisted in arranging the Centennial Program and in the preparation of this book. Representatives of the different organizations assisted in writing the articles about their respective groups. Many individuals contributed pictures and information.

We wish to thank Glenn Ash and Martha Ash for final compilation and writing of the church history; Mary Gambrill, Robert Lyman, and Gerald Parish for special work on the pictures, and Mrs. Maryilynn Baer for her work as Corresponding Secretary.

Special appreciation is due Mrs. Dora Hedenberg and Mrs. Pauline Fulk for many hours spent in typing and arranging the material.





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